

black law students by providing scholarships and job opportunities.

Capitol Hill has also witnessed the spirit and dedication of the organization. Just last fall, during the Congressional Black Caucus' Legislative Weekend, NBLSA's national chair spoke on a panel I sponsored entitled: "Literacy: The Cornerstone of African-American Achievement." Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the National Black Law Students Association on their 29th annual convention.

# REPUBLIC TIGERS AND THE RITZVILLE BRONCOS TRIUMPH ON THE BASKETBALL COURT

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Today, I want to congratulate the boys basketball team of Republic High School in Ferry County, WA and the girls basketball team of Ritzville High School in Adams County. On Saturday, March 8, 1997, their many hours of practice paid off when they defeated strong teams and won the Washington State B Basketball Tournaments.

Neither team went into the tournament as the favorite. Indeed, the Republic Tigers almost didn't make the tournament at all. But under the leadership of dedicated coaches, these teams defied the odds and stunned the State, proving that to triumph, confidence, and teamwork are as important as athletic skill.

Under the leadership of Coach Rory Rickard, the Republic Tigers boys team came from behind in four games on their road to the final round. In the finals, they defeated the Reardan Indians 38-36. The new State champs had been the fourth seed in district 7.

Chuck Wilson serves as the Tigers' assistant coach. The boys State champions are Chad Dinkins, Dave Hanks, Jason Baldwin, Dan Hanks, Kenny Glidden, Sam Hadden, Mark Rickard, Dan Hargrave, Lonnie Grimm, Kris Kuchenmeister, Dorian Russell, Steve Davenport and Chris Wilson. Tyrus and Cory Rickard as well as Josh Burnside served as managers, and Rebecca Hutton and Ryan Rickard kept the team's statistics.

Guided by coaches John Foulkes and Howard Manke, the Ritzville Broncos defeated the Wilbur-Creston Wildcats and won the Washington State Girls B Tournament. With a 33-26 victory, the Broncos claimed their second State championship, having last won it in 1979.

The players for the championship team are Tracy Warriner, Jennifer Kramer, Erin Weber, Jennifer Horpedahl, Megan Wellsandt, Katie Kirkendall, Shannon Russell, Megan Yerxa, Jamie Alspach, Jaime Wellsandt, Carlye Zicha, and Jennifer Janzen. Managers are Kristen Kramer and Crystal Zicha, and Leona Akers and Cassie Stegmeier served as the team's statistician. Congratulations to them all.

It is a great honor for eastern Washington that both the boys and girls State basketball champions—as well as the runners-up—come from our region. I hope their success will encourage others to pursue their goals, recognizing that to succeed, players need to practice and learn to work together as a team. They must not let the odds discourage them and remember always to do their best, remaining confident in their abilities.

It was these skills which enabled the Republic Tigers and the Ritzville Broncos to triumph on the basketball court. And it is these skills which will enable students across the country to succeed, whether in an athletic arena or whatever other endeavor they should choose to pursue.

## CLARIFICATION OF RECORDED VOTE

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 48 held March 13, 1997—final passage of House Joint Resolution 58 relating to the decertification of Mexico—I inadvertently registered a "no" vote on final passage when a "yes" vote was my intention.

This clarification is necessary to reflect my support for the decertification of Mexico as previously indicated by my recorded support for the measure in the House International Relations Committee, the three rollcall votes previous to final passage and my floor remarks in support of House Joint Resolution 58 as presented during debate on the House floor.

## DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, enclosed is a copy of a speech by Micah Genzlinger, a senior at South Burlington High School in Vermont. Micah is the Vermont winner of the VFW's Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. His speech reflects a passion for democracy of which I am proud. I am inserting his speech in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe it will benefit my colleagues.

## DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND (By Micah Genzlinger)

If I may, I would like to briefly tell you a little about my life. When I was born, my parents had the freedom to give me any name they wanted. They had the freedom to teach me what they thought was important. They had the freedom to show me what they thought I should see. They had the freedom to choose what kind of school I should attend. The freedom to bring me up in a family where they see the values, shared their belief in God, and taught what they considered right and wrong.

As the decisions became mine, I could choose who I was friends with, what types of music to listen to, what kinds of clothes to wear, what sports to participate in, and many other things. Soon I will be making bigger decisions: who to vote for in the elections, what college to attend, what I should do with the rest of my life, what religion I should study, and more. I am even free to disagree with what my parents taught me.

You may wonder why I told you about my life. Well, I did it for one reason only, to show you how good we have it in a democracy. Some don't believe we are any better off, but only in a democracy do you have the freedom to say what is on your mind and to express your inner-self without fear of pun-

ishment from the government. We have the freedom to choose our jobs and to choose what cities to live in. We also have the freedom to decide how we are going to live; whether that be in an apartment or in a house.

Some say the government is holding us down. I ask those people to look around the world. To look at the countries that decide what its youth will do with their lives without having any say, or look at the countries that kill people for speaking out against the government. Look at countries that limit the number of children a single family can have. Then try to tell me that we are worse off living in a democracy.

I think my generation has become used to the fact that we have so much freedom and does not understand the true value of our democracy. When I watch the news on television I see the scenes from Bosnia or the Middle East, I am reminded that we have a very special freedom. When I look back in history at the walls constructed in Germany, I can't even imagine what it was like living in fear of being jailed for doing nothing wrong, or not even being able to see any of my family members because they were on the other side of the wall. Most of all I can't even imagine what it would be like not being free.

Our country is not perfect. We have poverty, unemployment, crime and many other problems. But we have the most important things: a democratic country that allows us to make our own decisions, to live the way we want to live, to work at the job we want to do, to raise as many children as we feel we should have, and so much more. But most of all we can be free.

## TRIBUTE TO THE BUEHLER CHALLENGER AND SCIENCE CENTER IN PARAMUS, NJ

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 1997*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Buehler Challenger and Science Center in Paramus, NJ, for having served 50,000 visitors in its brief history. This milestone is anticipated to take place in the next few weeks and shows the strong demand for the services of this highly educational facility.

The Buehler Challenger and Science Center was dedicated September 6, 1994. It is a mockup of the space shuttle and its control centers and allows students who dream of the stars to come as close to space flight as they can without leaving the ground. In the process, it teaches a myriad of lessons about science, math, thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and self-confidence.

The center is named for Emil Buehler, an aviation pioneer whose experience ranged from the biplanes and dogfights of World War I to the beginnings of the shuttle program before his death in 1983.

This center presents the young people of New Jersey with a taste of the many challenges in sciences and technology that await them as we enter the 21st century. The children who visit this center will see advances in science and technology during their lifetimes we cannot begin to imagine. Our children are our future and this center helps ensure their future is a bright one.

Students who have taken the Buehler center's "fantastic voyage" are transported into a